

Emmy Chequen

Gerald Nadeau, Transcript

Deaths at the lumber camps left lumbermen's families in a difficult circumstance

"Locally, a few like Jack Chequen getting killed. Well, they were rolling logs into the river, and Jack was in front of a skid way of logs and they were frozen together and he got his partner to loosen the logs, and when they did, they loosened too many and they came down and rolled over him and killed him.

[Elizabeth: What happened to his wife and kids?] They raised seven kids on six dollars a month. And that was tough going. That was Mrs. Emmy Chequen. She lived beside her brother, Syl Labine. Syl helped her and between the help she got from him and the little check she got, she raised those... gang of outlaws.

[Laughter.] But she was a nice woman, I tell ya. And it wasn't because she didn't have lots of trouble, because she had. There was days when they didn't know if they were going to have anything to eat or not."